

September 15, 1947

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Dear Tracy:

The major purpose of this letter is to try to get you to send me a copy of your marvelous review which appeared in the last volume of Advances in Genetics. I hope you still have some available since I need it very badly for reference purposes.

I had a very interesting and informative time in Europe, the details of which will have to await the time when we can get together, since they are far too extensive to cover in a letter. You will, perhaps, be interested, however, in knowing that Winge has obtained a non-Mendelian ratio of pedigree involving the inheritance of the capacity to ferment maltose. He is explaining it on the basis of the existence of three distinct genes, any one of which is sufficient for the appearance of the character.

This is more or less the same hypothesis that Lindegren and I first offered when we reported the melibiose case. I am quite certain that it will not hold up. In fact, there is already good evidence that it cannot explain the available data. Nevertheless, the important thing is that he did get it, using his method of mating, which is much more foolproof than our method insofar as it guarantees that any non-Mendelian ratios are not due to the breakdown of mating type. His results therefore prove that it is not a trivial problem, something of which I needed very little convincing. Nevertheless, it is comforting to have the results.

I am just beginning to get going once more and will continue to hammer away at the "adaptin" aspect.

It seems to me the most likely possibility of clearing up the situation as well as making an important advance. At least, it seems to me that that is the crucial problem.

Sincerely yours,

S. Spiegelman

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